

Message Text

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73

ACTION NEA-06

INFO OCT-01 AF-04 EUR-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01

INR-10 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-14 USIA-04 SAJ-01 NIC-01 OMB-01 IO-03 DRC-01 /074 W

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R 101532Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY RABAT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3466

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

INFO USINT ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

USMISSION USUN

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L RABAT 4985

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR MO OVIP SS UR PINT

SUBJECT: MEETING WITH COMMUNIST LEADER ALI YATA: MOSCOWS

VIEW OF SPANISH SAHARA

FOR SECRETARY'S PARTY

1. DURING OCT 9 MEETING ON HIS FORTHCOMING VISIT TO U.S.,
OLD-LINE MOROCCAN COMMUNIST LEADER ALI YATA DISCUSSED
SPANISH SAHARA PROBLEM AND SOVIET ATTITUDE TOWARDS QUESTION.
YATA, WHO HAD JUST RETURNED FROM TRIP TO MOSCOW AND
EASTERN EUROPEAN CAPITALS, NOTED UNSTINTING SUPPORT OF HIS
PARTY OF PROGRESS AND SOCIALISM (SUCCESSOR TO MOROCCAN
COMMUNIST PARTY) FOR KING'S SAHARA CAMPAIGN AND INDICATED
HE HAD FOUND SYMPATHY FOR MOROCCAN POSITION IN MOSCOW.

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SOVIETS, YATA SAID, SUPPORTED DECOLONIALIZATION OF REGION

COMPLETELY AND, DESPITE THEIR RESERVATIONS CONCERNING ICJ, HAD NO OBJECTIONS TO MOROCCAN APPEAL FOR ICJ RULING ON QUESTION.

2. WITH RESPECT TO FUTURE OF DECOLONIALIZED SAHARA, YATA SAID SOVIETS DID NOT RPT NOT FAVOR INDEPENDENCE FOR REGION. INDEPENDENCE, IN SOVIET VIEW, WOULD UNDERMINE STABILITY OF REGION, AND YATA REITERATED SEVERAL TIMES THAT MOSCOW'S FIRST PRIORITY WAS STABILITY. ON MOROCCAN-ALGERIAN RIVALRY, YATA CLAIMED MOSCOW WAS SYMPATHETIC TO MOROCCAN TERRITORIAL CLAIM AND INDICATED THAT SOVIETS HAD SOME RESERVATIONS ABOUT ALGERIAN ATTITUDE. THIS SYMPATHY AND RESERVATIONS COULD NOT BE MENTIONED PUBLICLY AS MOSCOW FELT IT DESIRABLE TO PURSUE POLICY OF BALANCE BETWEEN MOROCCO AND ALGERIA IN INTEREST OF REGIONAL STABILITY. YATA CLEARLY IMPLIED, HOWEVER, THAT THERE WAS SOME UNSPECIFIED IRRITATION IN KREMLIN'S ATTITUDE TOWARDS ALGERIA.

3. COMMENT: LOCAL PRESS DID NOT ANNOUNCE THAT YATA HAD VISITED MOSCOW. ONLY YUGOSLVIA AND ROMANIA MENTIONED. DIFFICULT TO ASSESS HOW ACCURATELY YATA IS REPORTING SOVIET ATTITUDES ON SAHARA. ON BASIS OF WHAT SOVIET DIPLOMATIC COLLEAGUES HAVE TOLD US OF KREMLIN'S ATTITUDE ON SAHARA, WE WOULD HAVE EXPECTED SOVIET APPROACH TO BE MORE EVEN-HANDED.
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